

## OVER THE ORCHARD FENCE.

It seemed to me I want no use out in the field today. I thought I'd just sit here among the apple trees and watch the buzzards buzz.

Well, no! Can't say I'm tired, but I somehow wanted rest. To be away from everything seemed better to me.

For every time I go around where there is human kind, I know hunger after what I know I cannot find.

It's singular how in nature the sweet apple blossoms fall. The breeze, it seems to know and pick the petals of 'em all.

It's really rugged ones, perhaps, can stand again the blast. The fruit and delicate are made too beautiful to last.

Why, right here in the orchard, among the old trees, I saw a young apple tree just starting out to grow.

And when the skeletal storm comes tearing down the farm, it tore that up, while the rest it didn't do to harm.

And so you're white as a spell? Well, how is things in town? Don't say it's close an' hot. To take it up an' down.

Like the country best. I'm glad to see you're looking gay. No! Things don't go just right with me! I scarcely can say just.

O, yes! The crop is looking fair, I've no right to complain. My corn runs well, an' I have got a pretty start of grain.

My hay is almost made. Well, yes! Betsy? She's so-so. She never is as hearty as she ought to be, you know.

The boys? They're in the meadow lot down by the old mill race. As fast as the ground as I've got out there.

It's queer how the grass grows up, an' it's like to look like that. That's the time to cut it down. It's with a scythe.

Of things in nature, I suppose. The harvest comes for all. Some day, but I can't understand just why the things are.

The Lord knows best. He fixes things to suit His own will. An' yet it's our own foolishness to anger out the cause.

Mirandy? She's out of town; well, she's helping mother now. About a likely girl to bake, or milk a cow.

An' no! Not the man I was ten years ago. But then the years will tell upon the best of us, you know.

Another? Yes, our little was the best one of our baby boys. An' my little, an' my little, an' my little.

Just a little, always good, yet cheerful, bright an' gay. We laid her in a churchyard, over yonder, yesterday.

That's why I felt I want no use out in the field today. I somehow couldn't swing the scythe nor toss the new-mown hay.

An' so I thought I'd just sit here among the apple trees an' watch the buzzards buzz.

These things come hard when we're old, but then the Lord knows best. —Harry J. Caldwell, St. Louis.

## ZARA.

A driving, blinding snow, the sky dark and sullen, a wild wind sweeping over the plains, the mountains quite hidden from view by the storm.

Zara threw down the red curtains at the small window of her "best room," and tried to make things a trifle cozy in the room.

"Father will soon be home," she said—she had fallen into the habit of talking to herself out in this lonely country, this "howl, west." "He will put the sheep in the corral early to-night—it is so stormy."

A small clock on a shelf, which served as a mantel, and which was draped with some simple but pretty chintz, like the curtains, struck four.

Zara sighed a little as she heard it. How many times had she listened to that same silver chime—it was a pretty little French clock in happier days in the dear East! Its musical sound recalled so much—brought back the pretty, old-fashioned New England home so plainly. Zara could almost smell the great creamy roses that climbed over the front porch.

She could see the little home-parlor, so different from the dingy, faded room she now sat in with its poor little attempts at cheerfulness. She could fancy herself, as of old, sitting before her sweet-toned piano, singing all the "old tunes" she could call to mind "to please father," or she could picture the long, happy summer days spent under the large maples in the garden, lying idle in hammock, drinking in the sweet air, and dreaming as girls will dream.

How her dreams had turned out! When her father came to her one day and said very gravely: "Zara, I have lost money. This place must be sold. I shall go West," her heart had sagged with grief. She had dreamed so often of the West, she had dreamed of a paradise, so free and wild.

"Roughing it," would be so very pleasant! But she had not read in books about it. So she had written to her father's grave face and exclaimed: "I am so glad we are going West. I know I shall make our fortune there, I know."

She was young then, but barely seventeen. She was twenty-two now—had been "roughing it" five years. She was wiser.

The lovely New England home had been sold, all debts paid, and Zara Josslyn's father was strictly honorable—and father and daughter had sought the West—the great, undeveloped Territory of Montana. Mr. Josslyn's remaining capital, which was not large, had been invested in sheep.

"We shall have to be content to wait, Zara, child, while our little flock grows," Mr. Josslyn had said at the same time that cast a rueful glance over the small log-house they were to call "home" for the years to come. But Zara was young and hopeful.

"We shall be rich before we know it," she had cried, gayly, and went on talking merrily on the cabin walls, in lieu of plastering.

The years came and went—the little flock of sheep grew larger and money came in a little more plentifully; but Mr. Josslyn had not made "a fortune," yet, and life on a ranch was not so easy. Zara pined, secretly, for the East. She hated these desolate plains, the barren "foot-hills," the deeply-furrowed, snow mountains so different from the wooded New England hills! The sun blazed here—it shone in such a glaring way—and she missed the trees! The few "cotton-wood" trees she detested, she longed for maples, elms, oaks, and wanted real trees or none! She would say, "A few vines, in summer, were trained about the cabin-door and windows, and some wild, pale, pink, creeper-like things grew near the house. But Zara had not the heart to cultivate flowers; besides, her time was well taken up in other ways. Her days, though monotonous, were busy ones. She did not dream of idleness, unless of the past, and life was wholly practical to her.

Again the little clock chimed—this time, five. "I wonder father does not come!" exclaimed Zara, rising from a low foot-bench by the fire, where she had been sitting thinking for the last hour. She went to the window, and peering through the darkness. The wind moaned and wailed, the snow blew against the window-pane. Zara shivered and drew back. As she did so she caught the sound of voices. Lamp in hand she hurried to the door.

"Go right in," she heard her father say. "Don't wait for me. Just tell her

you are from the East—that will be sufficient recommendation."

Then Zara saw her father turn toward the barn leading another horse beside his own, and a tall man, well built, came striding up the path from the gateway.

"May I come in?" asked the stranger, pausing for a moment at the door and raising a fur cap.

"Certainly," replied Zara, and retreated into the warm, fire-lit room. The tall man followed, and quickly divesting himself of his snow-covered outer wrappings, drew near the blazing fire.

"My name is Storey—William Storey," he said, smiling, "and your father advises me to tell you that I am from the East."

Zara smiled also. "Father knows how glad I am always to see any one from home," she said.

"I have been in Montana, however, all this fall," Mr. Storey went on to say, "and I come here nearly every fall to hunt. Montana is good hunting ground. But I am here for a different purpose. I am from the East, and I have been here a long time."

"You do not like the West?" asked Mr. Storey, glancing up at the young girl's somewhat sad face.

She was leaning against the mantel-shelf, unconsciously watching William Storey. His little white hair, his blue eyes, his smile, she had never seen before.

"No, I thought I should like it, but it is very disappointing." Then suddenly, her face kindled. "Have you any sheep?" she asked.

"Yes," replied Mr. Storey, "I have a fine flock of sheep. I have just passed through a little town called Laurel."

"Yes, to both questions," replied Mr. Storey, again smiling. "I stopped over night at Laurel, on my way to Mount Desert one summer. It is a lovely little town."

"Oh, no!" cried the young girl, with almost a quiver in her voice. "I lived there once. I was so happy there!"

"Shall you not return there some time?" asked Storey, playfully, not knowing what else to say.

"We hope to, but we cannot so definitely for our return. It all depends on the sheep," said Zara, naively.

"You know I am glad," she exclaimed, her face flushing under her earnest gaze. "Father and I have talked of you so often." She went on; "how our life is so quiet and monotonous here, and how much I long to see you."

"I am very glad. My coming to you was quite an event to me. I assure you in all my ramblings since I left you, I have never forgotten you."

"You could not have been to a better place, according to this foolish child," he said, addressing his guest.

Then Zara slipped away, leaving the two men to chat the evening away. Zara, while she prepared something hot for supper.

"Well," observed Mr. Josslyn, after his daughter had gone, "you are about lost—completely lost!—when I come up with you!"

"I should think so!" exclaimed Storey. "If you had not come along just then I should most likely have spent the night on the plains. I could not see which way to turn—in fact, I could not see any trail—the storm was so blinding! It was worse than folly, my dear father, to come here on such a night."

"I am sure you are right," said Mr. Josslyn. "I might have known it would storm! But it only threatened when I set out."

"Are you acquainted much with the country about here?" asked Mr. Josslyn.

"I ought to be," said Storey, smiling. "I hunt in these parts every fall."

"You have been to Montana, then?" asked Mr. Josslyn.

"Very. Montana is a good country for hunting, too. I guess that all Miss Josslyn would admit is a good fact."

He added the young man, again smiling, as he recalled Zara's pensive young face.

"She hates it; I can see that," Mr. Josslyn said, looking at his daughter. "but she knows we have got to stay here for the present, anyway; so she makes the best of it. Our ranch is not very comfortable—so comfortable as the one you lived at in the East."

"I am very grateful for your hospitality," Storey hastened to say. "I am sure you will find me a good guest."

"I am glad to hear that," said Mr. Josslyn. "I have spent many a night on ranches far less comfortable than this one."

Then Zara appeared and said simply: "Now we can go to bed, father. Will you come to supper, please?"

Storey rose immediately, and with her father followed her to her room. She was sitting on the edge of the bed, and Zara, who was sitting at the head of the bed, poured fragrant coffee into quaint, real china cups.

"These came from home," she said, proudly, as she handed William Storey one of the dainty blue and white treasures.

The evening was spent in pleasant chatting, and passed so delightfully to the young girl that she fairly stared at the little clock when it struck eleven.

Mr. Storey, who was sitting on the edge of the bed, and Zara, who was sitting at the head of the bed, poured fragrant coffee into quaint, real china cups.

"I should like to," said Storey, "but I think I ought to go to bed. My room-mate (another Eastern man, Miss Josslyn) will be looking for me. If you will let me, I will ride out in a day or two and see you again, for next week I go home."

Zara gave a little longing sigh at his last words. He was going home. How she wished she could go!

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"Suppose I don't forget, will you be glad to see me when I come?" inquired Storey with sudden eagerness, and leaning toward Zara so as to get a better view of her half-averted face.

"The answer sounded a little cold, but Storey was not dissatisfied, somehow. "Then I shall surely come," he said. Presently he was gone. "You don't know how I appreciate your taking me in the other night. I shall always remember your kindness."

"Please don't say any more about it," said Zara, quickly. "For your own sake, I don't want to say more."

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—A man traveled hastily from San Francisco to Omaha, on hearing that he had been "remembered" in his father's will, and the report proved true, but the sum of the bequest was one dollar.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

Statistics show that the growth of timber in Kansas is yearly increasing beyond the consumption. It was feared at the first settling of the State that the timber would disappear in a few years.

"Munk Murphy, a brakeman, with a claim to eccentricity, has established a riding in Boston called up on the truck under a car, to win a bet that he could not pass the passage of a brick through a hole in the truck, he took of his shirt and flung it to the breeze.—*Boston Post.*

A girl of Southington, Conn., was discarded by her affianced husband. Her cousin handed her a bottle of ketchup, telling her to throw it into the false one's face to "make him smart a little." It was, in fact, a bottle of ketchup, and she threw it into the false one's face, and he was smarted.—*Hartford Post.*

—Iroquois, the Derby winner, and his colored groom slept in the same stall at a steamer which brought them home from England. The unconsciousness of the race-horse during stormy weather was allayed by the presence of his friend, the groom.—*London Standard.*

—George Gosses says that the proper time to apply plaster to a clover is after the plants have made some growth, say after the wheat harvest on clover sown in the spring. The clover should be cut directly on the leaf on which it is sprinkled.—*Prairie Farmer.*

—There is one thing at Niagara for which no charge is made, and that is the nightly illumination at the Falls, which is a beautiful sight to be imagined. It breaks the hearts of Niagara people to think the illumination cannot be "done."

—A curious change has taken place in England in the manner of selling real estate and pictures. Formerly the favorite method of selling real estate was by auction; now it is by private negotiation. The picture dealers have become brokers. Private picture dealers have usurped the business. The late-mentioned picture dealers have usurped the business. The late-mentioned picture dealers have usurped the business.

—Two of the cottage owners at Long Branch have built a protection to their property, which is situated on the low marshy ground, and reaches deep into the ground, while its top is covered by a promenade, with a slope of green sward and a hedge of boxwood. The purpose is to withstand the tremendous force of the waves, and heretofore, without State aid, no property-owner has taken such a precaution on his own account.—*N. Y. Sun.*

—In a railroad station at Birmingham, England, a runaway daughter was captured by her mother, just as she and her mother were about to enter a train. The daughter had been sent to America, had got into the train. Catching sight of the object of her search, the mother rushed at the eloping girl, and, shouting, "Come back!" she seized her by the arm and dragged her back to the station.

—The only reply she got was "Fiddlesticks!" when she was told that she had fetched the girl consented to return.

—A North Carolina girl had her hand completely severed from the arm by an axe. The physician, not being in a condition to amputate the arm above the wrist, had to have the arm sawed off with silver stitches and adhesive plaster, and having bound both arm and hand to a broad splint, ordered them to be carried to the hospital.

—The English Donkey and His Master. It is now seven years since Lord Shaftesbury with a heart of compassion for the dumbest of God's creatures, the poor little donkey, set on foot an almost hopeless task of making more endurable the existence of that patient beast of burden, the ass.

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